

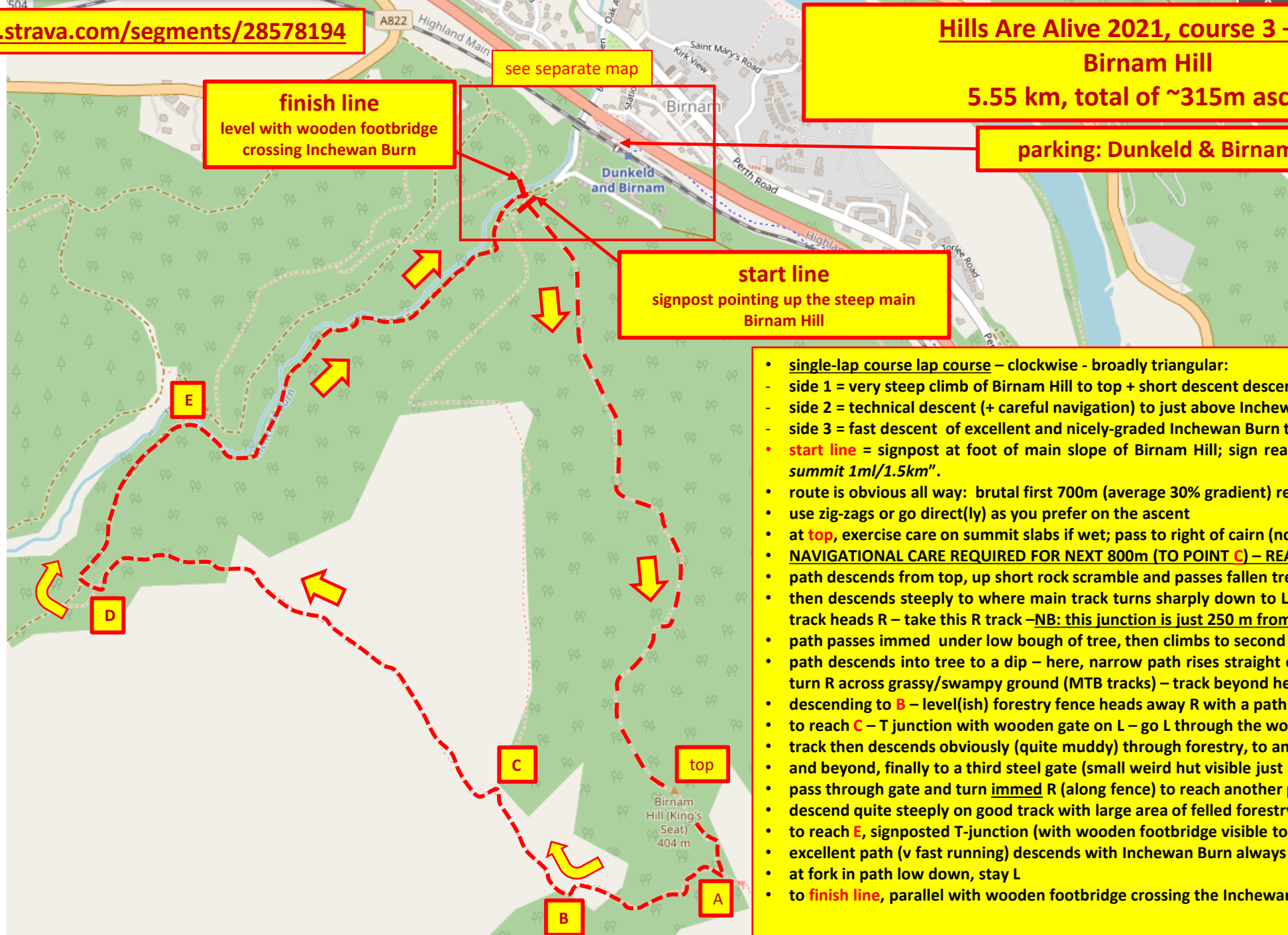
<https://www.strava.com/segments/28578194>

## Hills Are Alive 2021, course 3 – June

### Birnam Hill

5.55 km, total of ~315m ascent

parking: Dunkeld & Birnam railway station



**finish line**  
level with wooden footbridge  
crossing Inchewan Burn

see separate map

**start line**  
signpost pointing up the steep main  
Birnam Hill

- **single-lap course lap course** – clockwise - broadly triangular:
- side 1 = very steep climb of Birnam Hill to top + short descent descent to turn at A
- side 2 = technical descent (+ careful navigation) to just above Inchewan Burn at D
- side 3 = fast descent of excellent and nicely-graded Inchewan Burn track to finish
- **start line** = signpost at foot of main slope of Birnam Hill; sign reads "Birnam Hill Path – To summit 1m/1.5km".
- route is obvious all way: brutal first 700m (average 30% gradient) relenting slightly to top
- use zig-zags or go direct(ly) as you prefer on the ascent
- at **top**, exercise care on summit slabs if wet; pass to right of cairn (no need to touch cairn)
- **NAVIGATIONAL CARE REQUIRED FOR NEXT 800m (TO POINT C) – READ/FOLLOW CAREFULLY**
- path descends from top, up short rock scramble and passes fallen tree
- then descends steeply to where main track turns sharply down to L – here a clear but narrow track heads R – take this R track –NB: this junction is just 250 m from the summit cairn
- path passes immed under low bough of tree, then climbs to second wee top – turn R here
- path descends into tree to a dip – here, narrow path rises straight on (do not take) - instead turn R across grassy/swampy ground (MTB tracks) – track beyond heads gently down and to L
- descending to **B** – level(ish) forestry fence heads away R with a path alongside to R – take this
- to reach **C** – T junction with wooden gate on L – go L through the wooden gate
- track then descends obviously (quite muddy) through forestry, to and through a steel gate
- and beyond, finally to a third steel gate (small weird hut visible just beyond) at **D**
- pass through gate and turn **immed R** (along fence) to reach another path after 20-30m – turn R
- descend quite steeply on good track with large area of felled forestry to L
- to reach **E**, signposted T-junction (with wooden footbridge visible to L) – turn/head R
- excellent path (v fast running) descends with Inchewan Burn always to L – follow all the way
- at fork in path low down, stay L
- to **finish line**, parallel with wooden footbridge crossing the Inchewan Burn ~100m before gate

**FINDING THE START LINE**

signpost

**start line**  
signpost pointing up the steep main Birnam Hill reads "Birnam Hill Path – to summit 1ml/1.5km"

**finish line**  
on path, level with wooden footbridge crossing Inchewan Burn

**race route**

**gate (photo right)**  
coming uphill from car park, either go  
- through gate and fork left to start (purple) or  
- up zigzags (blue)

ramp/steps lead down from Birnam end of car park...

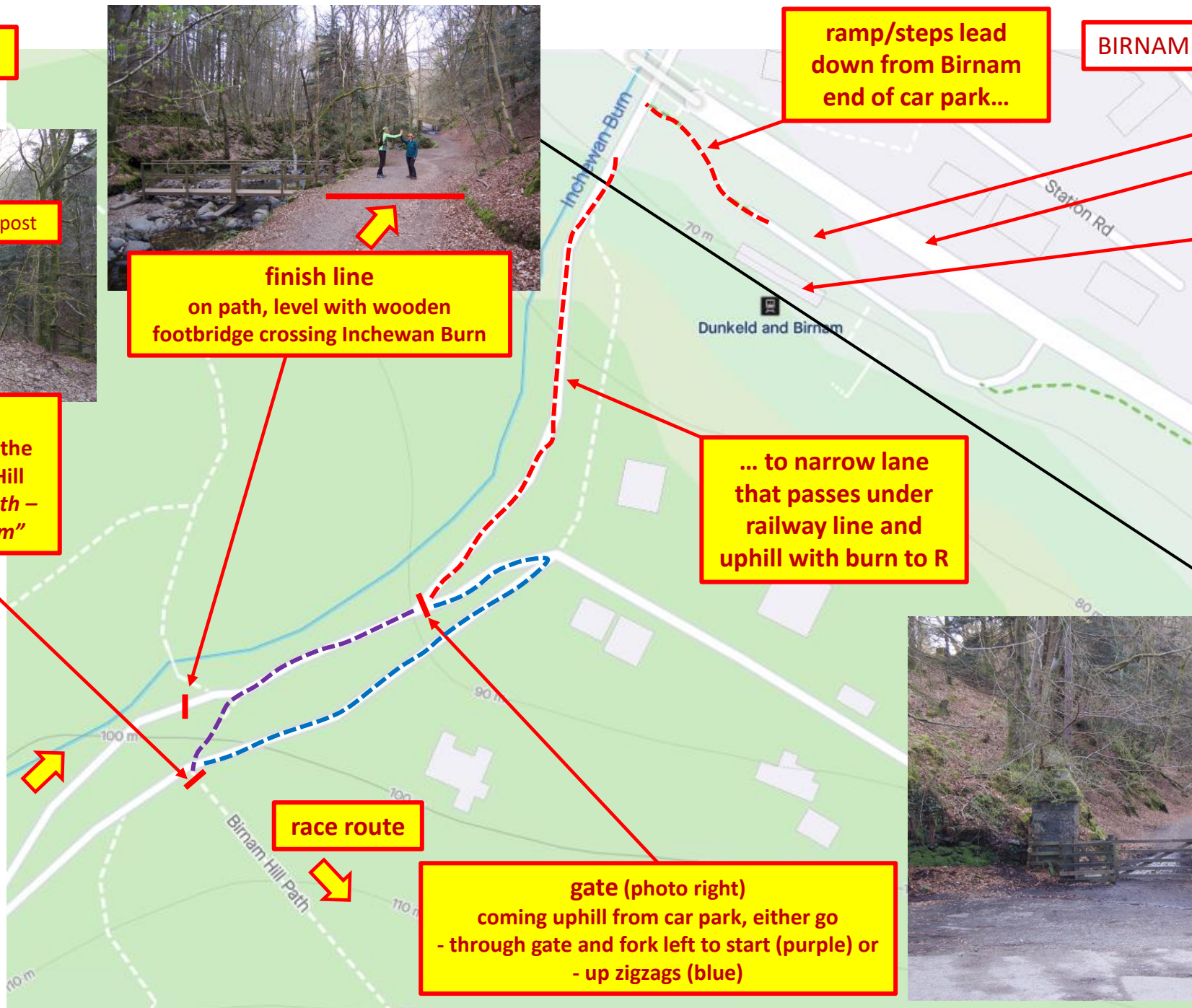
... to narrow lane that passes under railway line and uphill with burn to R

BIRNAM

parking at station

A9

Dunkeld & Birnam station building



summit cairn top – pass to R of cairn



fallen tree shortly after top



A – turn R – just 250m from top ...



... pass immed under low branch ...



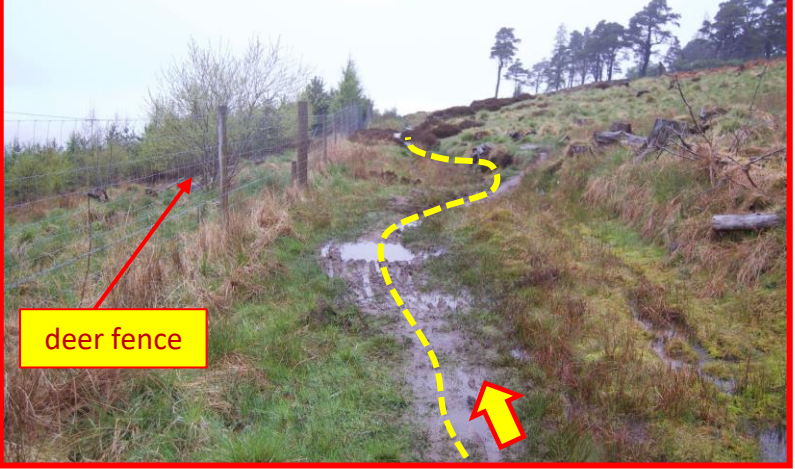
... climb to second top, and turn R ...



... descend through trees to a dip: ignore track ahead, instead turn R across soft ground (MTB tracks) ...



B – head R along line of deer fence, path is just to R



C – L through wooden gate at T-junction



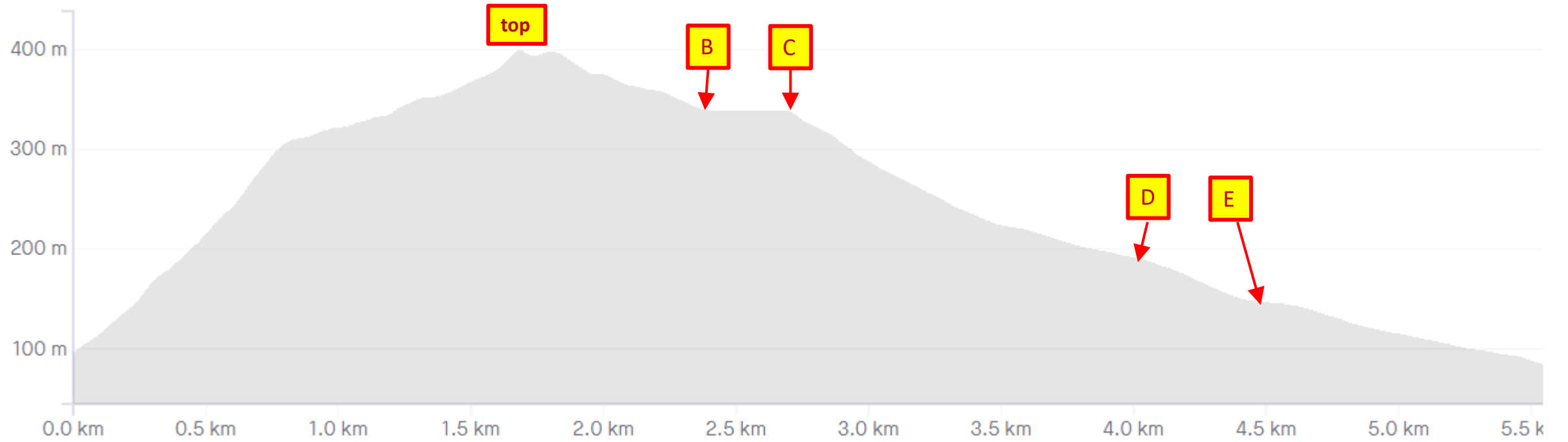
D – 2nd steel gate – immed R after this, then R again

E – R at signpost, continue with burn to L



route to finish forks low down – stay L





start

finish